



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/716,402	11/20/2003	Luigi Satragno	008788-053	5541
21839	7590	10/19/2007	EXAMINER	
BUCHANAN, INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC			LAMPRECHT, JOEL	
POST OFFICE BOX 1404			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404			3737	
		NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		10/19/2007	ELECTRONIC	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ADIPFDD@bipc.com
debra.hawkins@bipc.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/716,402	SATRAGNO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Joel M. Lamprecht	3737

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 June 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-38 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4, 6-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant's arguments and amendments have been fully considered by the Examiner and a response follows. Regarding the argument that Carrozzi fails to teach or suggest the use of a base block with wheels, rollers or a means for sliding or rotating, the Examiner respectfully disagrees. It is clear from Figures 1-7 that Carrozzi is concerned with the positioning of the patient via allowing the table to have rolling mechanisms, namely wheels, but attention must also be paid to Figures 15-16 which show that Carrozzi indeed is also aware of making the MRI base slidable or positionable relative to the table for the same purpose. Carrozzi teaches both the placement of wheels on the MRI base and the table itself, and within those various embodiments shows clearly that Carrozzi is aware that both the table and the MRI base can be moved with respect to each other by moving means. Regarding claim 28 and the arguments about a lack of two table systems, Examiner has noted a distinct motivation from a Japanese abstract which shows motivation for the use of multiple rotatable tables in an MRI device to backup the previously mentioned Official Notice rejection. Regarding the arguments to the rejection of claim 34, Carrozzi still provides a device capable of relative slidable displacement of a patient table where the **tables** (emphasis added) have means allowing them to slide or roll on the floor.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1, 6-19, 21-24, 27, and 34-38 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Carrozzi et al (EP 1 004 269 A1). The disclosure of Carrozzi et al, specifically in regards to the figures, discloses a majority of the same invention as in Applicants' application.

Regarding Claim 1, Carrozzi et al disclose in Figure 1, Element 1 an MRI apparatus, Element 201 a cavity, wherein the table has a base block and supporting structure, is slidable in at least 1 direction, and has means for removable connection between the table and MRI apparatus.

Regarding Claims 5-20, and 21-24, Carrozzi et al disclose a base block with wheels (Fig 2-3), a platforms with base plate and upper MRI supporting plate (Fig 1-4), a table guide interposed between the base plate and the upper plate of the platform (Figure 2-3), elements for rolling (element 4), and also a supporting plate which is slidable along a base plate, having an extension shaped as a circle coaxial to the sector shaped sliding guide (Fig 2-4). Additionally, Carrozzi et al disclose a support extension (support of element 1 from the figures), a magnet structure (element 1) having space (between 1 and 201) for accomidating a body part, and coaxial sector-shaped guides, with perpendicular axies instersecting the magnet structure. Carrozzi et al. also disclose a support structure that has the capacity to extend through an angle of less than 360 degrees or less than 180 degrees, sides of a magnet structure having an outer edge, arched to the table sliding guide. Within the interpretation of the Claims as written

Carrozzi et al also disclose sector-shaped guide and/or the upper support plate of the MRI apparatus and/or the upper support plate of the extension either individually or as a coupling within the disclosed system, can rotate a full 360 degrees, as when the system is not coupled, the rollers on the invention and pressure make it easily possible to rotate the guide, or supports a full 360 degrees.

Regarding Claim 27, Carrozzi et al disclose a table coupled to the MRI apparatus at one end side and extending radially with respect to the sector-shaped sliding guide (Figures 1-4).

Regarding Claims 34-37, Carrozzi et al disclose a system with an MRI apparatus, a table coupled to the apparatus, a guide for relative slidable displacement of the table and the apparatus, which has the shape of a circle, and at least one platform rotates with an axis of rotation coaxial to the axis of the sector-shaped guide for the table which has means for rolling (Figure 1-6).

Regarding newly added claim 38, Carrozzi et al disclose a system in Figures 15-16 in which the wheels of the base of the MRI apparatus are capable of allowing rotation relative to a patient table.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. Claims 2-4, 20, 25-26, and 28-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carrozzi et al (EP 1 004 269 A1) in view of (JP 11028199 A).
Regarding Claims 2-4 Carrozzi et al disclose all the limitations of the claims as listed but does not disclose using two tables simultaneously, rather Carrozzi et al disclose having

one table. One having sufficient skill in the art would have expected the invention to perform equally well dependent on patient based on multiple factors, as the tables are used as a support structure for the patient, and if the patient was too tall for just one table, another could be added. It is further noted that JP 11028199A discloses the use of multiple rotatable and variably positionable tables for the purpose of facilitating easier imaging acquisition (English language abstract provided complete with motivations).

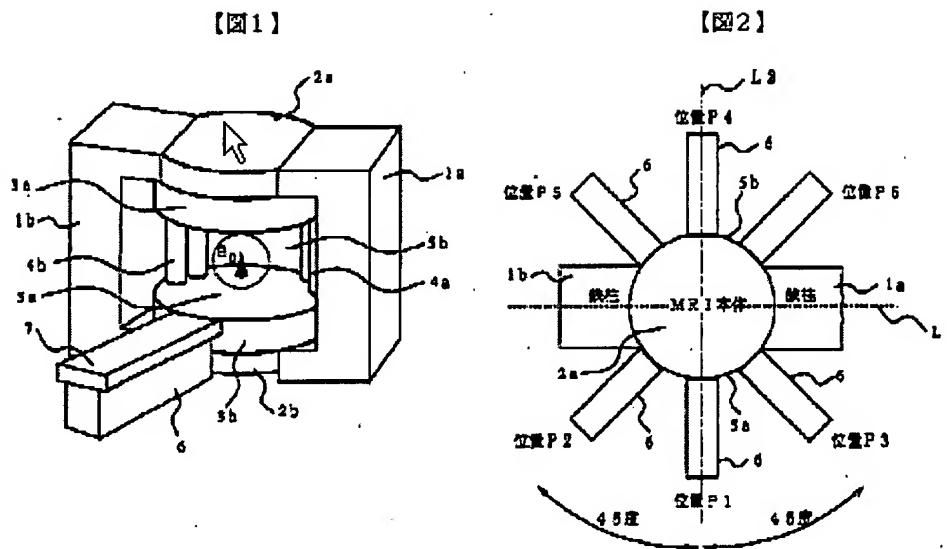
Regarding Claims 25-26, Carrozzi et al disclose a table guide for slidable displacement of the table fitted onto an intermediate part, removably coupled to the MRI apparatus by sliding guides (see Figure 4, 5, 6, 7, and specifically 13-14) and a cavity for accommodating the magnet structure, but does not disclose two or more tables being simultaneously coupled to the magnetic resonance imaging apparatus, rather Carrozzi et al discloses one table being removably coupled at a plurality of locales around the MRI apparatus. One having sufficient skill in the art would have expected the invention to perform equally well based on the design choice, as the tables are used in the exact same manner and are iteratively added if more support is needed for positioning. Additionally, attention is directed to the secondary teaching reference, which specifically discloses the use of multiple rotatable and positionable tables for the use of facilitating easier acquisition of MR images of a person.

Regarding Claim 28-33, Carrozzi et al disclose all the limitations of the Claims except for providing two patient tables, each at an opposing side of a guide (diametrically). Claims 29-33, Carrozzi et al discloses one guide section, but does not disclose two separate guide sections that extend through an angle of less than 180

Art Unit: 3737

degrees or less than 90 degrees and are coaxial to each other. Still Carrozza discloses a guide section, which contains two diametrically opposite sections each fully capable of placement of diametrically opposite tables by coupling them to the central portion (element 102). Using Figure 6 as a guide, Carrozza is capable of having tables placed on the opposite sides of the central portion if the patient being imaged required extra support, considering there are already locking pins (element 6) on both sides of the central portion (102). Taking into account the functionality of Claims 28-33, and the motivations of the secondary reference (JP 11028199A), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included tables on both sides of the device of Carrozza as in the teaching reference for the purpose of free positioning of patient tables in multiple directions.

Two images from the JP patent have been included for additional clarification on the motivation to use multiple tables during an MRI procedure below.



Conclusion

3. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 3737

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joel M. Lamprecht whose telephone number is (571) 272-3250. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30AM-4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian L. Casler can be reached on (571)272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JML
10/10/07


BRIAN L. CASLER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2000